

**CLAIM AMENDMENTS**

1. (previously presented): A compound comprising a polysaccharide having at least two sialic acid units linked 2.8 and/or 2.9 to one another, and having reducing and non-reducing terminal units and said polysaccharides having a pendant moiety linked to the reducing terminal sialic acid unit which pendant moiety includes a functional group selected from N-maleimide, vinyl sulfone, N-iodoacetamide and orthopyridyl disulfide.

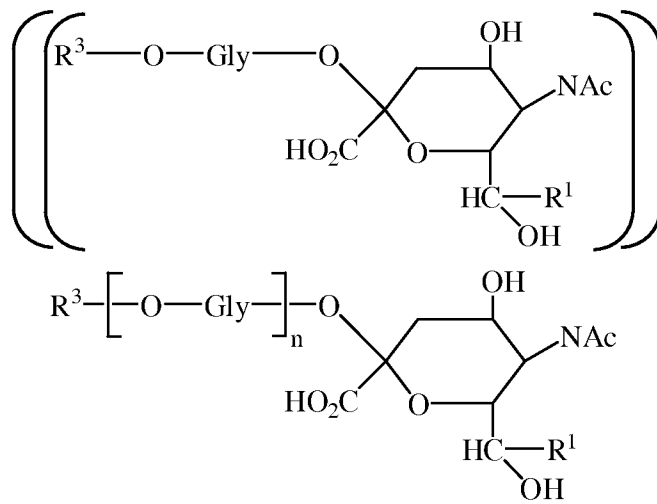
2-3. (canceled)

4. (previously presented): A compound of claim 1 wherein the pendant moiety further comprises alkylene and/or arylene and/or an oxalkylene and/or oligooxa-alkylene and/or oligopeptide.

5. (previously presented): A compound of claim 1 wherein the functional group is N-maleimido.

6. (previously presented): A compound of claim 1 wherein the polysaccharide is a polysialic acid.

7. (currently amended): The compound of claim 1 which has the formula



wherein:

$R^1$  is H or  $-\text{CHOHCH}_2\text{OH}$ ,

$R^3$  is  $-\text{CH}_2\text{CHR}^4\text{R}^5$  or  $-\text{CH}(\text{CH}_2\text{OH})\text{CHR}^4\text{R}^5$  wherein  $R^4$  and  $R^5$  together represent  $=\text{N}-\text{NR}^6$  or  $R^4$  is H and  $R^5$  is  $-\text{NR}^6\text{R}^7$  in which  $R^6$  is an organic group comprising the said pendant functional group and  $R^7$  is H;

O-Gly is a glycosyl (saccharide) group;

n is 1-50; and

Ac is acetyl.

8. (previously presented): A compound of claim 7 in which each O-Gly is a sialic acid unit.

9. (previously presented): A polysialylated protein with at least one cysteine unit linked through a thioether bond to at least one reducing terminal unit of a polysialic acid.

10. (previously presented): A compound of claim 1 wherein polysaccharide has at least 10 saccharide units.

11-20. (canceled)

21. (previously presented): A process to prepare a polysialylated protein coupled to the reducing terminal unit of a polysaccharide which method comprises reacting the compound of claim 5 with a protein having at least one free unprotected cysteine whereby the N-maleimido group forms a thioether linkage with the thiol group of said cysteine.

22. (previously presented): A process to prepare a polysialylated protein which comprises reacting the compound of claim 1 with a protein having at least one cysteine whereby the said functional group forms a thioether linkage with the thiol group of said cysteine.

23. (previously presented): The compound of claim 6 wherein said polysaccharide consists essentially of sialic acid units and said pendant moiety.

24. (previously presented): The compound of claim 10 wherein the polysaccharide has at least 50 saccharide units.

25-29. (canceled)

30. (previously presented): A compound of claim 6 wherein polysaccharide has at least 10 saccharide units.

31. (previously presented): A compound of claim 8 wherein polysaccharide has at least 10 saccharide units.